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CONSTRUCTION IN THE KIRGIZ SSR

(Reports From the Soviet Union
 Translated by the Sino-Soviet Cultural Society)

Construction is progressing in every part of the Kirgiz Republic. New schools, hospitals, collective farms, and electric power dams may be seen even in remote villages, where communication with outside areas is very difficult, offering evidence that the Republic's postwar Five-Year Plan is being fulfilled without delay.

Frans, the capital, is like a huge construction arena. Slightly west of the city a farm-tool factory is being thoroughly remodeled, modern machinery being installed in every section. The factory turns out critically needed horse-drawn reapers for use in hilly portions of the Republic. Several tens of thousands of harvesters, mowers, plows, and parts for agricultural machinery are produced annually.

Important additions are also being made to another machinery factory in this area, which is also producing lathes for industrial use and for use in machine-tractor stations. A shop has already been completed for repairing motors, tractors, and combines.

An alcohol plant is under construction north of the city and a cotton yarn mill will soon be fully equipped. This mill supplies raw material for the constantly growing weaving industry in the city. The electric power industry here is also very prosperous and many new hydroelectric plants are being built on the great canal dug during the war.

Besides industrial construction, many cultural centers and homes are being built. A new theatre in the heart of the city, containing revolving stages and elevators and seating 1,220 people, is nearly completed. On a main street nearby, wires for trolley buses are being installed. Water mains, sewers and electric lines are found on some of the streets.

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Very significant for the internal economy and culture of the Republic is the new railway constructed between Kant and the Rybach'ye, which was finished this year. It passes through the region of Issyk Kul, which is very populous and rich in coal and forests. There are many fish in the lake and the area is very suitable for the cultivation of such farm products as sugar beets. The railway also traverses the rich mineral region of T'ien-shan, which is also the center of the Republic's animal husbandry industry. Under the Soviet Government a highway has been opened to link the low-lying Issyk Kul region with the capital city of the Republic. Although the highway is not entirely sufficient for the rapidly growing economy of the Republic, the railway, when completed, will bring even more prosperity to the Issyk Kul region.

A village for workmen has been built in a valley among the Chieh-erh-kan-lan Shan, where the richest coal fields of Kirgiz are located, and a hydroelectric power plant is being constructed on a nearby stream. The Chieh-erh-kan-lan coal field is the most dependable source of coal for the north Kirgiz industries. A cement mill is also being constructed. It will produce several tens of thousands of tons per year. A huge meat-packing plant is being built in Rybach'ye and three fish-packing plants in the Issyk Kul region will soon be completed. Plans are being made for growing sugar beets on the collective farms to provide materials for sugar mills in the Chu Valley. Timber has been cut in the mountains and lumber is processed by machinery.

In the past few years all of Kirgiz has been interested in the construction of the huge reservoir at Wo-erh-to-ko, which will have a capacity of 50,000 cubic meters. This precious water can irrigate the farmlands of the Chu Valley.

In the ore-bearing K'e-tse-erh-shi Shan of southern Kirgiz, new shafts employing machinery are being completed, as well as a plant for making heat-resisting materials for use in Central Asian mineral refineries.

The work of digging a canal from Wo-ta-szu to A-tri-erh has dragged on for 2 years. When completed, it will enable the collective farms in that area to reclaim 2,800 acres of wasteland.

In the entire Republic many food-processing plants have been completed or are under construction. In Frunze alone, many such plants will be finished by the end of the Five-Year Plan, including bakeries, confectioneries, spaghetti plants, tobacco and oil factories, etc.

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